

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 150**

(By Delegate Poore)

1

2

3

4

5

6 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to conduct

7 a study relating to bullying in the public schools of West

8 Virginia.

9 WHEREAS, Bullying in schools is as old as any problem that

10 plagues schools and bullying incidents leave victims traumatized

11 and scarred for many years while the culprits gain more confidence

12 to continue with their anti-social and destructive behaviors; and

13 WHEREAS, Physical abuse and taunting that result from bullying

14 in schools also has an exclusionary effect that prevents its

15 victims from fully participating in the classroom and school

16 events; and

17 WHEREAS, Bullying creates an atmosphere of apprehension, fear

18 and intimidation that prevents students from reaching their full

19 potential later in life as productive workers, spouses and parents;

20 and

21 WHEREAS, Although most victims of bullying in schools are too

22 meek to take matters into their own hands, a few of them can be

23 pushed to certain critical limits such as the shooting incidents in

24 the 1999 Columbine High School Massacre have raised speculations

25 that bullying in schools can lead to dire consequences; and

1       WHEREAS, As a study showed that sixty percent of identified  
2 bullies during their grades six through nine eventually got involved  
3 in at least one criminal conviction by age twenty-four, it's  
4 clearly a problem that builds to later consequences, and something  
5 has to be done to prevent it, to stop bullies as early as possible;  
6 therefore, be it

7       *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

8       That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby  
9 requested to study bullying in public schools, including, but not  
10 limited to, study what anti-bullying programs and policies that  
11 currently exist in this and other states, which schools in West  
12 Virginia have "alternative" schooling available to them, the types  
13 of counseling available in the schools of this and other states  
14 that can be used to counsel bullies, their victims and their  
15 respective parents and any current programs available to public  
16 teachers assisting them in identifying bullying behaviors and their  
17 consequences; and, be it

18       *Further Resolved,* That the committee is to consult with the  
19 State Department of Education, the West Virginia Board of  
20 Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the county  
21 boards of education, teachers and administrators; and, be it

22       *Further Resolved,* That the committee shall report to the  
23 Legislature its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together  
24 with drafts of any legislation necessary to effectuate its  
25 recommendations no later than January 1, 2012; and, be it

1        *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct the  
2 study and to prepare appropriate reports, recommendations and  
3 proposed legislation be paid from legislative appropriations to the  
4 Joint Committee on Government and Finance.